

## Banner.

RANKIN,  
and Proprietor.

Dec. 16, 1897

of soft water is  
excuse for drinking  
hard.

THERE seems to be no place of repentance for Oscar Wilde. Even his plays that are brought out under disguise are hunted down and are not allowed to appear on the boards.

If Texas newspapers can influence the farmers there will be such a diversity of crops next year that cotton will be a sixth or seventh consideration. They are all preaching it, remarks the Denison Herald.

THE Taylor Tribune suggests that McKinley may now be safely termed the "false prophet," on the ground, we presume, that his predicted "return of prosperity" has failed to materialize.

THE proposition to make a solid gold statue of President McKinley for exhibition at the Paris World's Fair inspires a Texas 16 to 1er to propose a silver statue to Bryan sixteen times as large. If every man who voted for Bryan will contribute a silver dollar the statue can be made larger than that erected to the father of his country.

WASHINGTON is again crowded with hungry Texans pleading for pie. The autocrat of the republican breakfast table, President McKinley, is trying to withhold the loaves and fishes until harmony is established in the ranks of the g. o. p. in this neck o' the woods. Some of his henchmen will die of starvation or old age before such a result is accomplished.

"I SHOULD like to say to the congregation before Christmas is upon us," said the good old country parson, "that if the ladies who so generously supply me with slippers every year will kindly meet together after the mothers' meeting on Tuesday evening and consider the advisability of pooling their efforts so as to provide me with one pair of high-topped leather boots instead of thirty pairs of slippers, I shall be very grateful."

CONGRESSMAN WALKER, a staunch republican representative from the free State of Massachusetts, chairman of the committee on banking and currency, does not coincide with the President in his financial views as expressed in his message, and says: "The recommendation that greenbacks be not paid out except for gold, when once redeemed in gold, if enacted into law would enable one man with \$1,000,000 of greenbacks, demanding gold of the treasury and then depositing the gold in the bank for greenbacks, and repeating the process 346 times to retire the whole \$346,000,000 in the time it would take him to oscillate between the subtreasury in New York and his confederate foreign broker. The recommendation that banks be required to redeem their notes in gold, with no other provision of law, would cause every bank in the country to surrender its circulation, and then what agency would keep the country on a gold basis?"

A gentleman calling at a hotel left his umbrella in the stand in the hall with the following inscription attached to it: "This umbrella belongs to a man who can deal a blow of 250 pounds weight. I shall be back in 10 minutes." On returning to seek his property he found in its place a card thus inscribed: "This card has been left by a man who can run twelve miles an hour. I shall not come back."

## NO GOOD MAP OF CUBA.

Any landsman who tries to buy a good map of Cuba will learn the surprising fact that no such map has ever been made, and that even its coasts are for the most part either uncharted at all or charted so carelessly and incorrectly that the captains of vessels in approaching any except a few of the island's most important harbors are forced to rely almost exclusively upon such information as their own eyes and sounding lines will supply. This may not seem like a very important matter, especially to those who are accustomed to think Cuba as an out-of-the-way part of the world, in which many characteristics of a new and unexplored region are pardonable. In reality, however, this lack of maps and charts shows the quality of Spanish rule as clearly as do the murders of non-combatants or the wholesale misappropriation of public funds about which every correspondent has so much to say. As countries in the new world go, Cuba is very old. The Spaniards began to explore it in 1492, and since 1511, except for a single year, they have had uninterrupted possession of it. And in 400 years they have not had time enough to spare from the task of draining the island's resources even to survey its coasts. The idea of adding Cuba to the civilized world never occurred to them. The only thought was to establish at Havana and in a few other places great fortresses, by which the island could be, not governed, but controlled, and anything that would help general commerce was carefully left undone.

Where does Cleopatra's body rest? Scarcely a layman who would not answer, "Why, in Egypt!" After her cajoleries, her wiles, her life of intense, if not very exalted loves, Cleopatra was laid in one of the loveliest tombs that had ever been fashioned by the hand of man. But what a change 2,000 years has brought about! To-day an ugly mummy, with an emblematic bunch of decayed wheat and a coarse comb tied to its head—a mere roll of tightly-swathed dust—lies crumbled in the hideous glass case at the British Museum. It is Cleopatra, the once great queen, a Venus in charm, beauty and love.

POLITICALLY, says the Greenville Banner, the year 1898 comes midway between presidential campaigns and is the time for the election of the representatives to the second congress of the presidential term. It is thus the opening engagement for the battle of 1900. All the states will choose representatives in congress, and about one-third of them will choose legislatures which will elect United States senators for the senatorial terms beginning on March 4, 1900. The following states will also elect governors: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Every state will thus have an election of some kind on its hands, and as the contests involve the political dominance of the house of representatives for the two closing years of McKinley's term, they will be fought on national lines, and fall but little short of a presidential campaign in interest and importance.

## ESTRAY NOTICE.

Taken up by H. J. Neinst, Long Point, Texas, one brown stag, 12 or 15 years old, brand blotched, marked crop off left ear, and overbit in right ear, appraised at \$10. Estrayed before W. R. Ewing, Justice of the peace, precinct No. 3, Washington county.

O. A. SEWARD,  
County Clerk.

## Kaffir Corn.

Kaffir is a sorghum, differing from the common sorghum in having a shorter stalk, four to six feet tall; the stalk thicker, with more and larger leaves and much heavier seed heads. A correspondent of the Western Plowman says that from three to five times as many stalks are grown as of common corn, so making more fodder, and the yield of seed is equal to the yield of corn and of nearly equal value in feeding. While in a good corn section there may not be any advantage over corn in raising it, in sections where too dry for anything like certain development of corn it will nearly always make a good crop, though it cannot mature without some rain. Take an illustration from this, Oklahoma's driest year. Corn and Kaffir both promised in some sections 50 or more bushels per acre, but a few days of extreme heat and drouth cut corn to 20 bushels and Kaffir to 35 bushels.

In still dryer sections of the territory corn is a failure, or perhaps might be counted at five bushels per acre, while Kaffir will make 10 to 15 bushels. For a dry country it is the surest crop of the two, and even in more moist climate it will be advisable to divide the risk and grow some of it. As to price per bushel, it sells for a little less than corn. The ruling price last year was one-half cent per pound in small lots, and one-fourth to one-third of a cent for larger lots. About four pounds are required to plant an acre in the same manner, except thicker in the rows and rows a little closer together than corn. It is seldom sown broadcast; the common sorghum is better for that. There are three varieties, differing but little, yet each seems the best adapted to some special locality. The red is most commonly grown in Kansas, while two varieties of white seeded are grown here the most, one with a white hull or chaff and the other black, the latter being the best. In addition to these Jerusalem corn, Milo maize, African millet and rice corn are closely allied, but their cultivation is given way to Kaffir.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

## A Wonderful Discovery.

The last quarter of a century records many wonderful discoveries in medicine, but none that have accomplished more for humanity than that sterling old remedy, Brown's Iron Bitters. It seems to contain the very elements of good health, and neither man, woman or child can take it without deriving the greatest benefit. For sale by R. E. Luhs, Sole Agent.

## Mrs. J. W. Blake Dead.

Mrs. J. W. Blake, wife of State Chairman Blake of Mexico, died Saturday morning after a lingering illness. The news of her death reached Brenham through a telegram to Mrs. Heber Stone, a schoolmate in girlhood days of the departed lady. The papers have contained daily for some weeks statements of her condition. She has been an invalid a year or more, but it was only in the last few weeks that her malady assumed a serious aspect. The condition of her health induced her gifted husband to abandon his canvass for governor, which, while not formally announced, was well defined and understood. Chairman Blake's political colleagues and the State at large will sympathize with him deeply in his sad affliction, and honor him most highly for placing his domestic duty and fidelity above the behests of ambition.

I write this to let you know what I would not do: I would not do without Chamberlain's Pain Balm in my own house, if it cost \$5.00 per bottle. It does all you recommend it to do and more.—J. E. Wallace, Wallaceville, Ga. Chamberlain's Pain Balm is the best household liniment in the world, and invaluable for rheumatism, lame back, sprains and bruises. Be ready for emergencies by buying a bottle at R. E. Luhs's drug store.

## CASTORIA.

The little  
signature  
of *Chas. H. Fletcher* is on every wrapper.

## THE RISE OF THE ADVERTISEMENT.

There was a time when the advertising columns of the newspaper presented a monotonous appearance from day to day. They were written in a formal style and condensed to a few outlines. A look now through the advertising matter of a live newspaper is interesting, and to many even fascinating. But an examination of it is far more than a pastime. It is full of valuable business points and opportunities, and brings clearly to mind Cowper's thought of a "map of busy life, its fluctuations and its vast concerns." With an increase of vitality in advertising has come the writing of advertisements as a profession. The aim is not to be literary, though a good advertisement has claims in that direction. Flashing an idea clearly into the mind is the purpose. In the most lucid words and the most taking form the expert writer of advertisements seeks to impress the reader with what is offered and the best reasons why it should be purchased. First catch the eye, then the attention, then the judgment, and the object is attained.

In this way a glance over the advertising pages has come to be like a walk through a street of great bazars, with show windows full of goods ticketed on every hand; or like a great clearing house on the intelligence office plan, where the reader at his ease may select what he wants or offer what somebody else will want, says the Globe-Democrat. There is no noise, no crowding, no waste of time, no opportunity that cannot be dismissed without a word. Another feature of a live advertisement is its veracity. It costs money and means business. It is not printed for the fun of the thing. Then it is presented in honest rivalry and must stand the test in columns that are open to all the respectable elements of trade on equal terms. In the course of time the public becomes acquainted with the methods of each advertiser and quickly acquires an aptness in selection. The name of the steady advertiser at length becomes a household word.

Sometimes it is said that a large part of the feminine world on opening a newspaper read the marriages and deaths and then turn to the fresh advertisements. It would be nearer the fact to say that the woman who is the head of a family reads the important news and then settles down to study the advertisements that touch her round of duties. Such a course is perfectly natural and business-like. Men look over advertisements for the same reason, though in the line of their own daily transactions. The law of choice is at work in both cases. All mankind love a bargain and all desire to keep up with the times. So the utilities and attractiveness of advertising grow from year to year. The specially trained writer and the artist combine to render it more pleasing and effective and all possible typographical ingenuities are employed to the same end. Advertisements are brightened also by the value of the newspaper space. There may have been a time when the eye of the reader avoided the advertising columns but that is past. This is an era of enterprise in news and no less of successful progress in advertising.

An extraordinary breach of promise trial has recently engaged the attention of the court in Auburn, in the State of Maine. The defendant was a lady, a niece of Mr. Dingley, the author of the Tariff Bill. The plaintiff, a Mr. Melcher, said that Miss Dingley proposed to marry him, and engaged herself to marry him, but now she has married another. He asked for \$25,000 to heal his damaged heart. The jury found for the plaintiff, and the lady will have to pay nearly \$2,000.

## The Clock Stopped.

Philip Wisser, aged 82, died Sunday at his residence, 1721 South Second street, 7:27 o'clock. The time was recorded by the clock, which for more than twenty-five years has told the hour of the day to the Weissers family. The old timepiece stopped ticking as the octogenarian breathed his last. It was an incident foretold by Wisser several years ago. "The clock is my friend," said he, one day. "I have listened to its beat for these many years, until now I think its action is in unison with the beats of my heart. I believe its seemingly sympathetic movements will cease when I die." And so it came to pass. The very moment that the venerable man dropped off, the familiar "tick-tock" of the timepiece was heard no more. The pendulum came to a standstill suddenly and without apparent reason. The clock was wound the evening before by Wisser and should have run for eight days. When it was examined yesterday, it was found to be in good order, but the members of the family will not again use it as a timepiece. They will keep it in memory of the departed.—St. Louis Republic.

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease, and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven Catarrh to be a constitutional disease, and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally in doses from 10 drops to a teaspoonful. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials. Address, F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c.

THE Philadelphia Times considers that the hard times have taught our people some valuable lessons. They have made the manufacturers especially depend on economical methods and during the four years depression they have sought the markets of the world with their goods and sold them in places where hitherto they did not think of going. In Europe, especially has this trade been built up and more has been done there than in the Central and South American states. A return to a high tariff policy may interfere with this good work, but the Times thinks that with what the country has gone through, the lessons of cheap production have been thoroughly instilled and that this country will widen its trade territory instead of letting it lapse into what it was before.

## For Over Fifty Years.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used for over fifty years by millions of mothers for their children while teething, with perfect success. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic, and is the best remedy for "diarrhea." It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Sold by druggists in every part of the world. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" and take no other kind. Twenty-five cents a bottle.

In order that all who start for the gold fields without knowledge of mining or metallurgy may learn "their trade," as it were, instructions are to be given at Tacoma in the art of separating gold from quartz, and in distinguishing valuable rock from worthless trash. For placer mining little knowledge is needed in the Klondike district, because in a few days a man can learn how to handle sluice boxes and separate the very coarse gold found there from the dirt and gravel. Nevertheless, most prospectors entertain hopes of finding the immensely rich quartz deposits from which the gold in the placers were dislodged. They, accordingly, seek some practical knowledge of the rudiments of metallurgy, and many of them will carry north this season a tiny smelter, consisting of a "blow-pipe" and a few chemicals, with which to detect the presence of gold in rock.

An exchange has discovered that all lovers are alike, and that is why they correspond.

THE Kansas City Star says Chicago girls are flocking in droves to see the Brazilian anconda that hugged a pony to death.

THE annual announcements of "skipping an issue" are to be found in numerous exchanges. You can't beat the average editor out of Christmas.

It is said that John D. Rockefeller makes as much money every day as the nation's president does in a year, which is a great deal more than the average citizen and tax payer makes in a life time.

MILTON PARK, the great North Texas middle-of-the-roader, has sent forth a bugle blast calling the faithful to meet in St. Louis on January 12th. The invitation embraces no one who does not oppose fusion and favor independent political action on the part of populists.

THERE are rumors floating about in diplomatic circles to the effect that a score of Spanish generals are preparing a manifesto in which they propose to roast our president for belittling the honor of the Spanish army. If the president is really guilty of the charges it is the best thing of which his administration can boast.

A REMARKABLE wedding took place recently in Berkshire, England. The bridegroom was eighty-five, and his bride two years younger. Six maiden ladies, each over seventy, acted as bridesmaids; six grand-daughters of the bridegroom strewed flowers in the path of the happy couple; and four grand-sons of the bride sang a nuptial song, composed expressly for the occasion by the parish clerk.

IN all the large cities in the United States there are a number of people out of work who are in danger of starvation and of freezing to death. If the government of the United States wishes to display legitimate philanthropy, why not concern itself with these unfortunates instead of sending relief to a lot of gold hunters who went with eyes open into British territory, pertinently asks an exchange.

CHRISTMAS will soon be here and with it comes joy to many and sorrow to many others and still others hail its advent with a dread. Great joy and happiness is in store for the little tots who expect a visit from Santa Claus. Sorrow and heartaches will come to many because in the run of such an occasion stalks abroad. Then many a ple dreads to see Christmas cause of the custom of making. Everybody expects Christmas present and the son in moderate circumstances this means the expenditure of money that can ill be spared. Welcome the time when customs will cease.—Herald.

THE Dingley bill to wade extra session of congress entirely devoted, has demonstrated the wisdom of the democratic opposition to the measure, says the Waco Telephone. The law has been a failure in all save as a deficit producer. It is wrong in principle and consequently cannot be made operate to the best advantage in practice. The policy it represents is injurious to the country and is responsible for many conditions from which the nation suffers. While "Dingleyism" should be charged with all its proper consequent evil effects, there are a few things which should not be laid at its door. It does not bring on "northern" droughts, rains, good and bad crops, and lastly it does not bring the ducks, the tramps and the geese southward when a blizzard sends a cutting, biting blast around a State street corner in Chicago or hobo camp near a northern railroad track.

## CASTORIA.

The little  
signature  
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If congress provides for a system of postal savings banks at the coming session of Congress it will benefit the whole country, but a part of it more than the South, where savings banks or any other institutions in which savings can be deposited are few. The south therefore is most deeply interested in the passage of this bill.